

Lead Industries Association

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September 13, 1957

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D., Director
Kettering Laboratory
University of Cincinnati
Eden Avenue
Cincinnati 19, Ohio

Dear Bob:

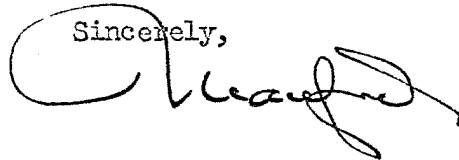
As you may well know, there have been indications of late that the ghost of the alleged lead hazard from automotive exhaust gases had not been as deeply and finally laid as we had hoped.

Now, as you will note from my enclosure, comes a chemist lady from the University of Chicago with a statement which, while less extreme than some, is certainly disquieting.

You will recall, I think, that when that crazy Los Angeles crew came out with their wild contentions, I secured figures on lead in street air from official agencies in a number of our larger cities and found none remotely indicative of a hazardous level.

Before going after Miss Tufts with a hot poker, I would welcome word from you as to whether you know of any recent evidence from any sources which would be at all supportive of her contention.

Sincerely,



IB:GW

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Costello

P. S. Since dictating the above, I have received a notice of the Semi-Annual Technical Conference of the Air Pollution Control Association to be held at San Francisco, November 18th and 19th, and note that Dr. Herbert C. McKee of the Southwest Research Institute is to give a paper on the afternoon of the second day with the title "Particulates in Automobile Exhausts." I would think that we should find a way to secure a copy of this paper.



Science and Medicine

2 New Chemical Agents Attack Only Cancer Cells

New hope in the fight against cancer has been offered by two research groups reporting at the American Chemical Society's 132nd annual meeting.

Chemists from the University of Wisconsin and from Hoffmann-La Roche, Inc., Nutley, N. J., announced that two new agents have been developed and used successfully against cancer in mice and rats.

Dr. Charles Heidelberger of the University of Wisconsin told the society's division of biological chemistry yesterday that the agents, called antimetabolites, were accepted by cancer cells. They promptly upset the metabolic processes of these cells, he said, although they had little effect on normal cells.

Laboratory tests, he said, demonstrated "a high order of tumor-inhibitory activity against transplanted tumors in rats and mice."

Further experiments are needed to determine the agent's effect on humans, he said. He predicted, however, that current studies would provide valuable information on tumor metabolism and might lead to development of even more potent anticancer compounds.

Dr. Robert Duschinsky, a Hoffman-La Roche scientist, identified the two new agents as 5-fluorouracil riboside and 5-fluorouracil deoxyriboside. They differ from naturally oc-

curing compounds called pyrimidines only in the substitution of a fluorine atom in place of a hydrogen atom.

He said earlier research showed that uracil, a pyrimidine, was taken into the nucleic acid of tumor tissues at a higher rate than into normal tissues. This led to a "chemical hunch" that the replacing of a hydrogen atom with a fluorine atom would combat the cancer cells, he said, and experiments

of Chicago chemist to the American Chemical Society meeting here today.

With the small concentrations of lead particles in the atmosphere, no health hazard exists for most of the population, said Barbara J. Tufts, Department of Meteorology chemical analyst, "except possibly to those whose occupations require a constant exposure to highway atmospheres."

Miss Tufts reported she drew air samples through fine membrane filters that captured all lead particles, then chemically analyzed the filters for lead content. She found the greatest number of particles to be of a size that could most easily reach the lung, one to three microns. A micron is about four one-hundred-thousands of an inch.

Gasoline Additive Dangers Cited

By DAVID PURSGLOVE,
Science Service Staff Writer.

Anti-knock gasoline additives containing lead may threaten the health of persons whose occupations keep them in heavy automobile traffic, although there is no health hazard to the majority of the population.

A study of tiny lead particles formed from the combustion of gasoline containing tetraethyl lead was reported by a Univer-

...ing the newspaper with the most complete PHOTOGRAPHY COVERAGE of any daily in America! Today and every day there's a special feature for camera fans only in the World-Telegram and Sun.